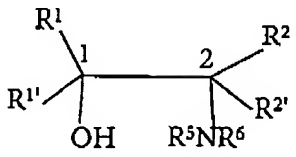
Serial No. 10/081,345
Filed: February 22, 2002

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A process for preparing a 2-aminoalcohol of formula



III

wherein R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$, independently from each other, are H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkenyl, cycloalkyl-lower alkynyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkenyl, heterocyclyl-lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl-lower alkyl, aryl-lower alkenyl, or aryl-lower alkynyl, or

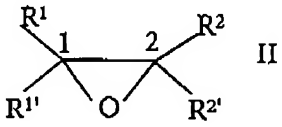
R^1 and R^2 , R^1 and $R^{2'}$, $R^{1'}$ and R^2 or $R^{1'}$ and $R^{2'}$ taken together with the two carbon atoms to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system, or

R^1 and $R^{1'}$ or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bound, are a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring system,

wherein at least one of R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$ is not H, and

R^5 and R^6, independently of each other, are H or a substituent of an amino group, wherein R^5 and R^6 are not both H,

comprising treating a 1,2-epoxide of formula (II)



II

wherein R^1, $R^{1'}$, R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are as above

with an amine of formula R^5NHR^6 wherein R^5 and R^6 are as above in the presence of a magnesium halide catalyst.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the amine of formula R^5NHR^6 is allylamine, diallylamine, benzylamine, dibenzylamine or trimethylsilyl amine and the magnesium halide catalyst is magnesium bromide diethyl etherate.

3 – 13. (Canceled).